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<u>L5</u>	L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based with language\$)	1	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L3	10	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based with characteristic\$)	10	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based)	228	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	709/\$.cccls.	17161	<u>L1</u>

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L3: Entry 3 of 10

File: USPT

Oct 1, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6460050 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Distributed content identification system

Brief Summary Text (19):

In a further aspect, the invention comprises a method for identifying a characteristic of a data file. The method comprises the steps of: generating a digital identifier for the data file and forwarding the identifier to a processing system; determining whether the forwarded identifier matches a characteristic of other identifiers; and processing the e-mail based on said step of determination.

Current US Cross Reference Classification (2):709/203Current US Cross Reference Classification (3):709/206

Previous Doc Next Doc Go to Doc#



US006460050B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Pace et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,460,050 B1**
(45) Date of Patent: **Oct. 1, 2002**

(54) **DISTRIBUTED CONTENT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

(76) **Inventors:** **Mark Raymond Pace**, 42 15th Ave., San Mateo, CA (US) 94402; **Brooks Cash Talley**, 40 15th Ave., San Mateo, CA (US) 94402

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** **09/469,567**

(22) **Filed:** **Dec. 22, 1999**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 17/00; G06F 15/16**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/104.1; 707/10; 709/203; 709/206**

(58) **Field of Search** **707/9, 6, 104, 707/7, 10, 104.1; 709/201, 202, 204, 225, 203, 206**

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Primary Examiner—Safet Metjahic

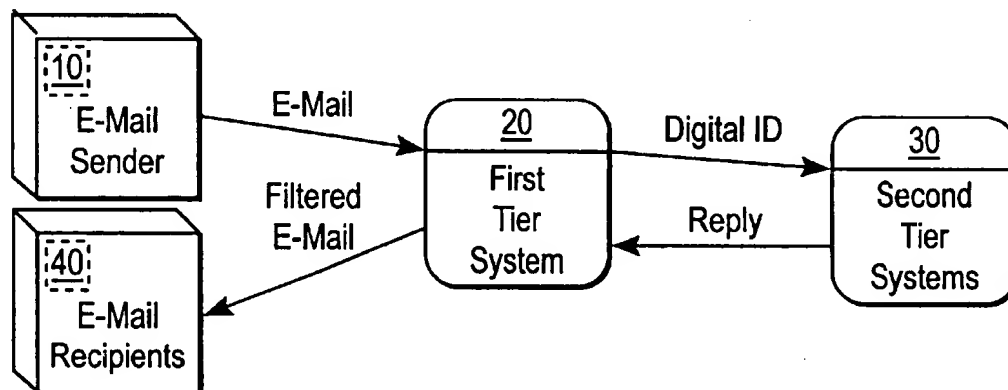
Assistant Examiner—Uyen Le

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Vierra Magen Marcus Harmon & DeNiro LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A file content classification system includes a digital ID generator and an ID appearance database coupled to receive IDs from the ID generator. The system further includes a characteristic comparison routine identifying the file as having a characteristic based on ID appearance in the appearance database. In a further aspect, a method for identifying a characteristic of a data file comprises the steps of: generating a digital identifier for the data file and forwarding the identifier to a processing system; determining whether the forwarded identifier matches a characteristic of other identifiers; and processing the data file based on said step of determination.

25 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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<u>L9</u> L1 and (plurality adj3 e-mail adj1 server\$)	4	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u> L1 and ((web adj1 server\$) and (plurality adj3 e-mail adj1 server\$))	0	<u>L8</u>
<u>L7</u> L1 and ((web adj1 server\$) and (e-mail adj1 server\$))	134	<u>L7</u>
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<u>L5</u> L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based with language\$)	1	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u> L3	10	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u> L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based with characteristic\$)	10	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u> L1 and ((rout\$ or forward\$ or sent or send\$) with (email\$ or e-mail\$) with based)	228	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u> 709/\$.cccls.	17161	<u>L1</u>

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L11: Entry 5 of 25

File: USPT

May 4, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6732156 B2

TITLE: System for routing electronic mails

Detailed Description Text (9):

Processing center 100 also contains a router 116. This router selects the most qualified and available support person to respond to a particular e-mail based on one or more algorithms (or scripts). Various factors in a routing strategy will be described below.

Current US Original Classification (1):709/206Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):709/207

CLAIMS:

1. A system for routing an electronic mail (e-mail), from an incoming queue, to one of a plurality of support persons in a processing center, each of said support persons having a specific skill set from a variety of possible skill sets, the system comprising: an e-mail server adapted to receive said e-mail from a sender; an information extractor for extracting information from said e-mail; a router for placing incoming emails from the server in a queue; and a database accessible to the router and storing skill sets of said support persons; wherein said router selects said one of a plurality of support persons by matching stored information about said specific skill sets with portions of extracted information from said queued e-mail and routes said queued e-mail to one of the plurality of said support persons.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein routing of e-mails to selected support persons is load-balanced based on recorded activity stored in said stat-server.

10. A method for routing electronic mails (e-mails) in a processing center having a plurality of support persons, comprising steps of: (a) receiving e-mails at an e-mail server in the processing center; (b) placing said e-mails in a queue; (c) extracting information from the e-mails; (d) matching extracted information with skill sets of support persons; (e) selecting specific support persons to receive said e-mails based on results of the matching step (c); and (f) sending said e-mails to said selected support persons.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein routing of e-mails to selected support persons is load-balanced based on recorded activity stored in said stat-server.

20. A method for routing electronic mails (e-mails) from an incoming queue in a processing center, having a plurality of support persons, comprising steps of: (a) receiving e-mails at an e-mail server in the processing center; (b) placing emails in a queue; (c) selecting specific support persons by a router to receive said e-mails in the queue; (d) monitoring time for response to said e-mails by said selected support persons against a preset time-for-response limit; and (e) sending

an e-mail for which a response is not made in the time-for-response limit to a different support person.

21. A system for routing electronic mails (e-mails) from an incoming queue to individual ones of a plurality of support persons in a processing center, comprising: an e-mail server adapted to receive said e-mail from a sender; a router for placing received emails in a queue and routing said email; and a database accessible to the router; wherein said database stores statistical information about the activities of the processing center, including numbers of e-mails routed to each support person from the queue in the processing center, and said router adjusts numbers of e-mails sent from the queue to said support persons according to a load-balancing algorithm.

28. A method for routing electronic mails (e-mails) from an incoming queue in a processing center, having a plurality of support persons, comprising steps of: (a) receiving e-mails at an e-mail server in the processing center; (b) placing emails in a queue; (c) selecting support persons to receive said e-mails from the queue; (d) storing statistical information regarding numbers of e-mails routed to each support person; and (e) using the statistical information in a balancing algorithm to adjust the number of e-mails sent to each support person.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein routing of e-mails to selected support persons is load-balanced based on recorded activity stored in said stat-server.

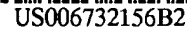
38. A method for routing electronic mails (e-mails) in a processing center having a plurality of support persons, comprising steps of: (a) receiving e-mails at an e-mail server in said processing center; (b) placing the received emails in a queue; (c) routing e-mails from the queue to selected ones of said support persons; (d) tracking numbers of e-mails received and routed; and (e) notifying senders of possible delays if preset load thresholds are exceeded.

39. A system for routing an electronic mail (e-mail) from an incoming queue to one of a plurality of support persons in a processing center, the system comprising: an e-mail server adapted to receive said e-mail from a sender; a queue; a router; and a database accessible to the router and storing data regarding availability of said support persons; wherein said router queues incoming email, selects said one of said plurality of support persons by consulting the database for availability data and sends said e-mail to the selected support person.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein routing of e-mails to selected support persons is load-balanced based on recorded activity stored in said stat-server.

48. A method for routing electronic mails (e-mails) in a processing center having a plurality of support persons, comprising steps of: (a) receiving e-mails at an e-mail server in the processing center; (b) placing the received emails in a queue (c) checking a database for availability of support persons to which e-mails may be routed; and (d) selecting a specific support person to receive a specific e-mail based on results of the checking step (c); and sending said e-mail to the specific support person selected.

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(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,732,156 B2
(45) **Date of Patent:** *May 4, 2004

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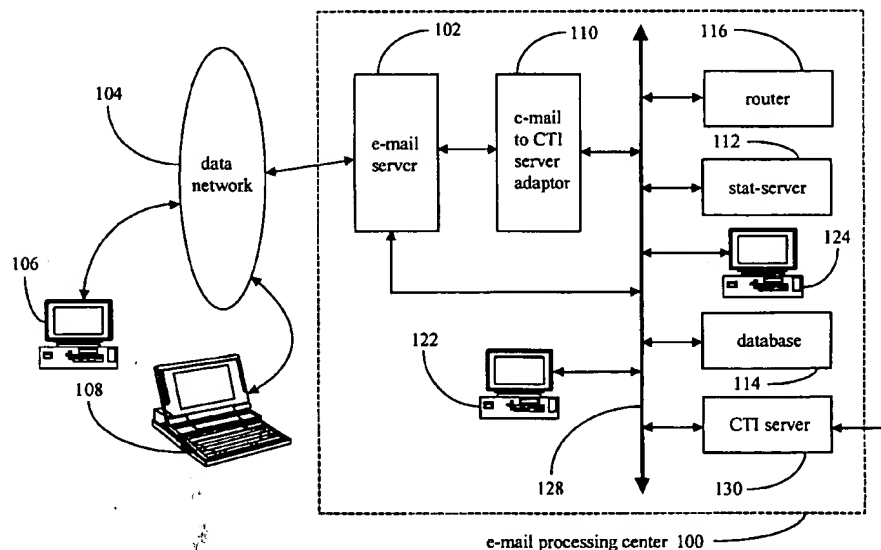
Primary Examiner—Glenton B. Burgess
Assistant Examiner—Kimberly D Flynn
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Donald R. Boys; Central
 Coast Patent Agency, Inc.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

- A system for routing electronic mails to one of a plurality of support persons in a processing center is disclosed. Each person has a skill set that is suitable for responding to a certain type of e-mails. The system comprises an e-mail server for receiving the e-mail from a sender, an information extractor for extracting relevant information from the e-mail, and a router for routing the e-mail. The system contains a database for storing information related to all persons who can answer e-mails. The system also contains a server for storing the history of all activities in the system. The router can make routing decisions and perform load-balancing and alert functions based on the information stored in the database and the server.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

48 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



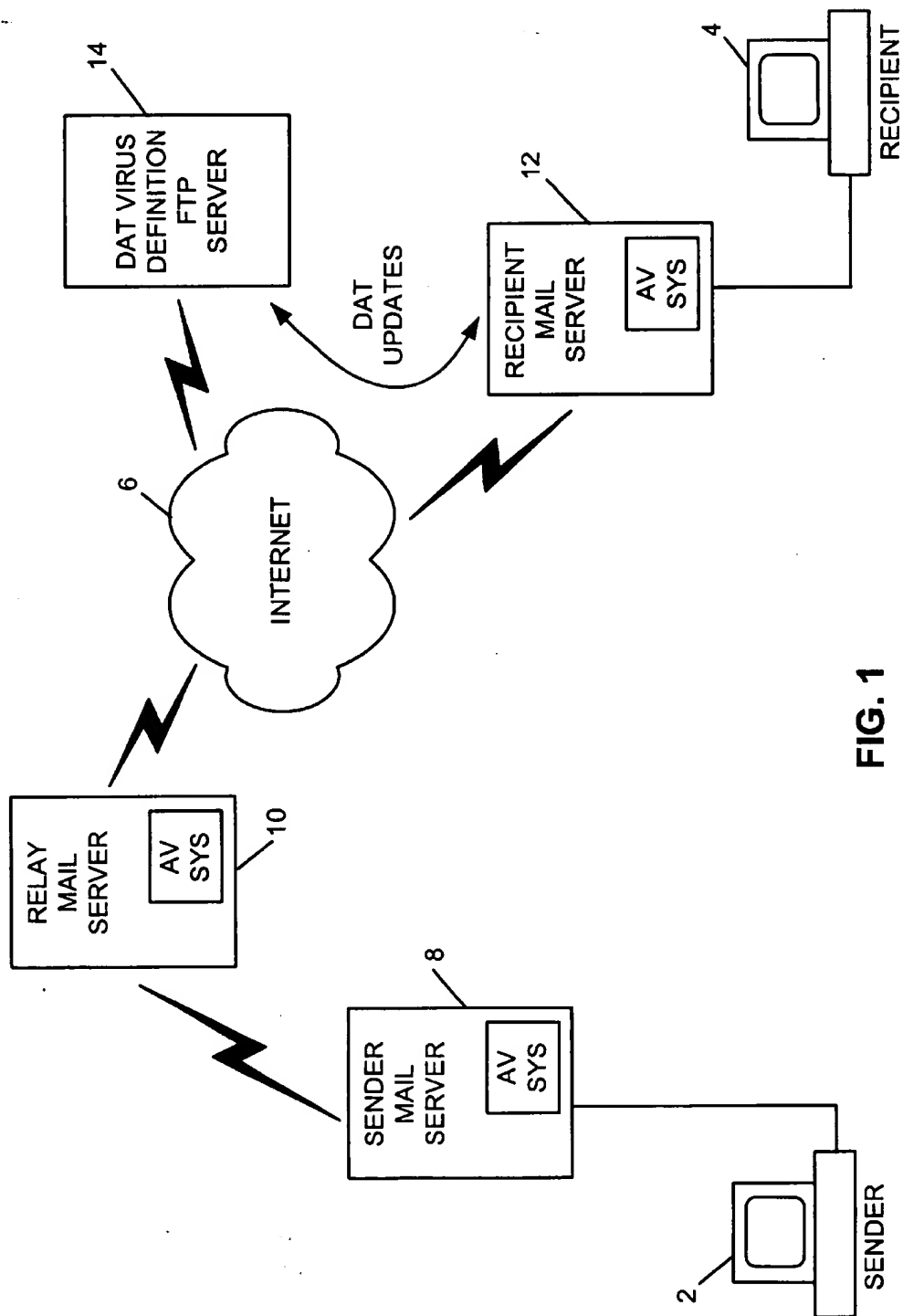


FIG. 1



US006757830B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Tarbotton et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,757,830 B1
(45) **Date of Patent:** Jun. 29, 2004

(54) **DETECTING UNWANTED PROPERTIES IN
RECEIVED EMAIL MESSAGES**

(75) **Inventors:** Lee Codel Lawson Tarbotton,
Leicester (GB); Daniel Joseph Wolff,
Aylesbury (GB); Nicholas Paul Kelly,
Milton Keynes (GB)

(73) **Assignee:** Networks Associates Technology, Inc.,
Santa Clara, CA (US)

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 822 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/678,688

(22) **Filed:** Oct. 3, 2000

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** G06F 11/30; G06F 12/14

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 713/188; 713/200; 713/201;
709/226

(58) **Field of Search** 709/206; 713/188,
713/200, 202, 201; 714/26, 38; 707/3

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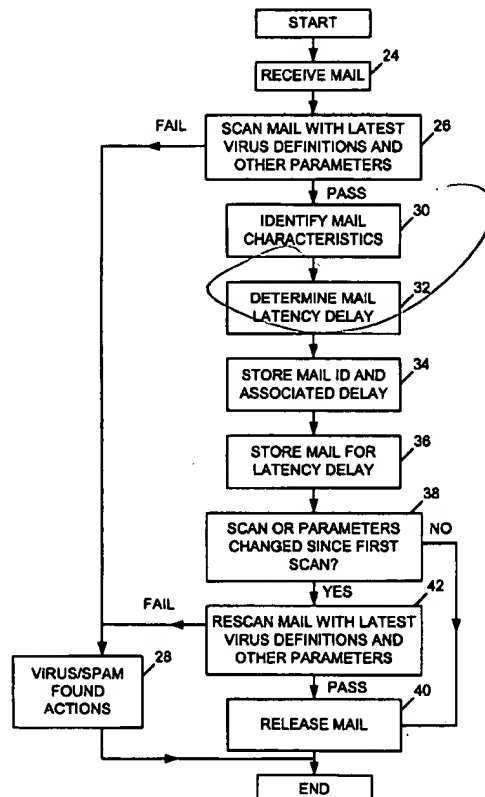
Primary Examiner—Emmanuel L. Moise

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Silicon Valley IP Group,
PC; Kevin J. Zilka; Christopher J. Hamaty

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Received e-mail messages are subject to a minimum delay period determined in dependence upon characteristics of the e-mail message received. Prior to release of the e-mail message upon expiry of the minimum delay period a check is made that the most up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spamming tests have been applied to the e-mail message. Characteristics that may be used to determine the minimum delay period applied include sender characteristics, recipient characteristics, attachment type characteristics and message content type characteristics.

45 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets





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L11: Entry 3 of 25

File: USPT

Jun 29, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6757830 B1

TITLE: Detecting unwanted properties in received email messages

Drawing Description Text (3):

FIG. 1 schematically illustrates the passage of an e-mail message from a sender to a recipient via a plurality of mail servers including anti-virus systems;

Detailed Description Text (13):

FIG. 4 schematically illustrates a sequence of rules that may be applied to received e-mail messages in order to determine the minimum delay period to be applied. These rules may be generated and applied in a manner similar to rule based processing performed for other purposes by existing known e-mail systems (e.g. rules based processing for automatic forwarding or filing of received e-mails).

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):709/226

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